

Baldwin Hardware Corporation

841 Wyomissing Boulevard
Reading, PA 18252
EPA ID #: PAD002350833
Latest Update 12/04/2003

Current Progress at the Site

The Baldwin Hardware manufacturing facility is located in West Reading, just west of the Schuylkill River. Baldwin has acknowledged groundwater contamination at their facility. The main constituents of the contamination are halogenated hydrocarbons, primarily trichloroethylene and its associated degradation products. The groundwater contamination is a result of the past usage of two unlined surface impoundments, in which electroplating wastewater treatment sludge were stored. The two surface impoundments have been excavated, backfilled, certified closed and built upon (construction ended in 1987). The work took place under the regulatory supervision of the PADER (predecessor to PADEP), Southeast Regional Office.

In 1984, groundwater contamination was found via the groundwater monitoring well network approved by PADER for closure of the surface impoundments. In 1987, EPA issued an Administrative Order on Consent [3008(h) Order] to the facility for groundwater remediation. A groundwater remediation system was installed in 1988. Contaminated groundwater is pumped by 3 recovery wells at a rate of 300 gallons per minute, and is treated by in air stripper, which removes the organic contaminants. Some of the treated groundwater is used as non-contact cooling water in the manufacturing plant and is discharged under a NPDES permit to a tributary of the Schuylkill River. Excess treated groundwater is pumped to a wet-well that discharges under the NPDES permit.

The status of the site remains unchanged since 1988. EPA requires quarterly groundwater monitoring to confirm that the pump and treat system is operational and effective in keeping the contamination on-site. The on-site groundwater is used only in the manufacturing process, not as a source of drinking water.

Site Description

The Baldwin Hardware Corporation is primarily involved in the manufacturing of solid brass mortise locks, forged materials and bathroom and desk accessories. Historically, plant operations included electroplating, polishing and lacquer clear coating.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at Baldwin Hardware are being conducted under an Administrative Order on Consent [3008(h) Order], executed by EPA in 1987. Quarterly monitoring of the groundwater pump and treat system is required by the Order.

Contaminants

The primary contaminants of concern at this site are: volatile organic compounds, such as trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2-dichloroethene and benzene.

Community Interaction

At the time the clean-up remedy was selected, in 1987, the public was provided notice of the remedy via newspapers, and offered an opportunity to comment.

In addition, public notice of the PADEP approval of closure plans for the RCRA regulated units was provided at the time of approval.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm

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